

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace page 7, second paragraph that begins with “The battery according to this invention ...” with the following amended paragraph:

The battery according to this invention further comprises a seal structure providing a leak-proof enclosure and electrical insulation between individual cells 20, resulting in a monolithic unit 10. Fig. 1 shows as an example how the seal structure 51 encases the bipolar plates 22 and end plates 32', 32" around their perimeters and provides a complete enclosure and insulation from cell to cell. In a specific embodiment, the seal structure 51 is created by applying a frame structure 46 around the perimeter of each bipolar plate 22 and each end plate 32', 32", followed by stacking the frame structures and the electrode plates on top of each other and by securing the frames and the electrode plates to each other around their perimeters by a welding, gluing, moulding or mould injection process or any other process known to those skilled in the art. In a specific embodiment the seal structure 51 consists of a thermoplastic material or of several thermoplastic layers laminated, welded or otherwise joined together. Suitable materials include polymers such as polypropylene or any other polyolefin, acid-modified polypropylene or polyolefins, polyester, polyvinylidenechloride, SURLYN® (a commercial thermoplastic ionomer resin by DuPont), ACLAR® (a fluoropolymer film by Honeywell) or any other material with appropriate barrier and electrical insulation properties, chemical and electrochemical compatibility with the battery components and processing characteristics. The seal structure may include additives or an additional barrier layer to improve the hermetic seal and/or to trap moisture or may be based on resins which are hardened at ambient or above-ambient temperature or by UV light or any other suitable source of radiation. Additionally, the seal structure may provide a section for at least one cell, where gas can accumulate or be absorbed by suitable getters in case of any parasitic side reaction evolving gaseous compounds.

Please replace the trademark “Surlyn®” on pages 10 and 17, with: SURLYN®.